TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · FOREST SERVICE

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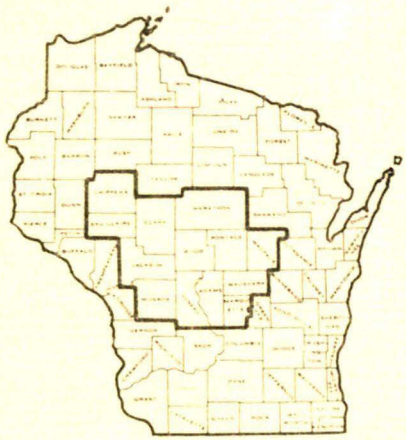
Central Wisconsin Forest Lands Mostly Privately Owned

Farmers own well over half the commercial forest land in central Wisconsin. Other small private owners hold about one-fifth, while the county and municipal governments together own about one-eighth.

This ownership pattern is revealed in the recently published reports of the forest survey of 13 counties in the Central Plain area. The survey was made by the Wisconsin Conservation Department in cooperation with the counties and forest industries. The Lake States Forest Experiment Station made the ownership studies and contributed to several other phases of the work including overall planning.



Ownership class	Commercial forest land (Acres)
Federal	82,560
State	94,180
County & municipal	379,860
Farm	1,672,250
Large private	99,990
Small private	546,190
All ownerships	2,875,030

In contrast to northern Wisconsin the Central Plain area has relatively little publicly-owned forest land. It has no national or state forests. The only large blocks in federal ownership are a military reservation and a wildlife refuge. Most of the state-owned forest area is in game management units although a large block in Jackson County will be designated a state forest in 1956. While the central area had its troubles with tax delinquency, it emerged with a smaller proportion of forest land in county ownership than the counties farther north.

A large acreage is poorly stocked and nonstocked forest land--almost a quarter of the total commercial forest area (see table on back of sheet). Each class of ownership includes a roughly proportional part of this area, which needs planting or other treatment to bring it into production.

The distribution of sawtimber stands by ownership varies widely from that of total forest area. Public forest lands are 19 percent of the total but include only 3.5 percent of the sawtimber acreage and 8.2 percent of the poletimber acreage. Two-thirds of these public lands are county-owned, and most of them were cutover or burned-over when acquired. Farm holdings, on the other hand, while constituting 58 percent of the forest land, include 81 percent of the area in sawtimber stands and 71 percent of the poletimber area.

1/ Includes Adams, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Marathon, Marquette Monroe, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood Counties.

APRIL 1956 JAMES T. MORGAN, Forester

MAINTAINED AT ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Table 1.--Commercial forest land by ownership and stand-size class

(In percent)

Ownership class	Total forest area	Sawtimber stands	Poletimber stands	Seedling and sapling stands: Satisfactorily stocked	Seedling and sapling stands: Poorly stocked	Non-stocked
Federal	2.9	.2	.6	4.9	5.2	3.5
State	3.3	1.2	2.1	5.1	4.6	2.5
County and municipal	13.2	2.1	5.5	24.8	11.8	10.6
Farm	58.1	81.2	70.7	43.4	51.5	54.1
Other private:						
Large	3.5	1.6	2.8	3.8	5.1	4.6
Small	19.0	13.7	18.3	18.0	21.8	24.7
All ownerships	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0